

VOL. XXXXIV

NO 4

THE AMERICAN McALL RECORD

Devoted to the
interests of
La Mission Populaire
Évangélique de France

issued

January . . . March
May . . . November

NOVEMBER
1926

THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION
1710 CHESTNUT STREET PHILADELPHIA

THE AMERICAN McALL RECORD

PUBLISHED BY THE

AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION

1710 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: Four numbers with Annual Report, postpaid, 50 cents.
CLUB RATES, ten or more subscriptions, to one address, 40 cents a year.
Club Rates do not include the Annual Report. Single copy, 15 cents.

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Entered at the Post Office, Philadelphia, Pa., as second-class matter.

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VOLUME XXXXIV

NOVEMBER, 1926

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A month before the appearance of this issue of the "Record," every Auxiliary will have received notice that "the France-Amérique Transport Service is to be terminated January 1, 1927." This means, apparently, that the Comité de Secours will be obliged to close its Relief Depot, as "The American McAll Association cannot afford to ship their gifts to France unless they can do it free of charge."

Every effort, of course, will be made to secure permission to continue shipments, but, if these efforts fail, the boxes sent this fall will contain the last contributions of clothing, food, etc., to the destitute families in France, many of which have been literally kept alive by the Association's gifts.

Mrs. Miller states that she will not be able to forward anything received at the Elizabeth depot, 907 North Broad Street, later than November 15th.

Twenty children of the *Solidarité* of Roubaix had the special privilege and novel experience of passing their vacation days in Denmark. One of the Danish deputies who had been much interested in the work of M. Cooreman in the communistic community at Bicêtre invited him to bring to Copenhagen, as his guests, a score of the children of the Bicêtre Thursday School. M. Cooreman being entirely preoccupied with his new vacation colony was unable to accept the invitation in person, but on the suggestion of the Paris Committee M. Ferret, of Roubaix, whose problems and whose mentality are much like those of M. Cooreman, took the latter's place and with a group of children from the *Solidarité* spent a most delightful month in a Danish countryside.

It is always sad when those who have served in the Mission for long years are forced to retire from the ranks. On the first of October, two men whose names have appeared for years in the columns of the RECORD were obliged to offer their resignations. Pastor Biau, of Marseilles, labored in season and out of season, in the North and in the South of France and as a popular and welcome evangelist when summoned from time to time to the aid of his fellow workers, during the almost unprecedented period of forty-five years.

M. Vautrin has been associated with M. Biau since the close of the war and prior to this was for many years the director of the old *Solidarité*, at Rouen.

The congratulations of the RECORD are extended to these devoted servants of God for their honorable and useful ministry together with the hope that in the years that remain the memories of their successes as soul-winners for Christ and uplifters of their fellow men may sustain them and fill their hearts with peace.

The Paris Committee has confided the Marseilles work to M. Sabliet who will, of course, have the continued co-operation of Pastor Kaltenbach in the hall in the Chemin de l'Argile which two years ago was attached to Pastor Kaltenbach's church.

Following the announcement in the May RECORD of the purchase of the lot in the garden city of Arcueil-Cachan, it is a pleasure to state that during the summer final contracts were signed and that the work of laying foundations was begun the first week of August. Visitors to Paris next summer will find the little *Fraternité* and the home for Mlle Foëx completed and the children of the *Abandonnés* of Arcueil at their games in the shelter of the big playground.

One of the most noteworthy additions to the Mission's plants is represented by the last name on the RECORD cover. The four Vacation Colonies have during the summer become five, *Fresnes-l'Archevêque* taking its place with *La Bernerie*, *Châtillon*, *Les Vallées* and *La Rayée*. The director of this fifth colony is M. Cooreman who has charge of the Paris station at Bicêtre. The reason for the Committee's decision to provide M. Cooreman with this summer home for the Bicêtre children is significant and symptomatic. "Unless I have a vacation colony," said M. Cooreman, "I shall lose my children." The reason is that both the municipalities and the priests are starting vacation schools in competition with the Mission and other religious organizations. Bicêtre, like many other sections of Paris and other large cities, is dominantly socialistic. When the public schools are closed, the communal playground, with a gymnasium

and other attractions, or a home in the country, minus all religious training, is offered to any child who desires to accept the invitation and through these new attachments the Mission Hall is likely to find, when fall comes, that its children have been permanently alienated. At *Fresnes-l'Archevêque* M. and Mme Cooreman were able to keep their children, to the number of thirty-five or forty, under their immediate oversight during the entire summer. The village is situated in the high hills that surround Rouen and not far from the winding Seine as it flows through the picturesque white cliffs at Les Andelys.

Both M. Cooreman and his wife are converts of the Faubourg St. Antoine hall, two of the group of promising young men and women whom Mr. Greig took from the humbler walks of life and set upon their feet in the way of promise and achievement. M. Cooreman has always been a student as well as a most successful evangelist, serving years ago as director of *Le Bon Messager*. He has recently passed his examinations for ordination to the ministry and last month was consecrated to his *métier* as *pasteur*. His son-in-law has been appointed to the faculty of the University of Paris. The stories of those who today are carrying large responsibilities in the professional and business world, and who owe their all to M. Greig, are many. "He, being dead, yet speaketh!"

Readers of the RECORD will note a number of changes on the back cover of the magazine. Pastor Russier, one of the vice-presidents, has resigned. At Lourches, M. Brabant takes the place of Pastor Farelli while M. et Mme Claerhout have become the evangelists on board *La Bonne Nouvelle*. Mme Claerhout's mother was a convert of the Mission, under the ministry of M. Merle d'Aubigné when he was serving as director of the work in rue Nationale. M. Claerhout, in his own words, was "born in Belgium and born again in the Argentine Republic." Years ago he came under the spell of the Salvation Army in which he rose to the rank of captain and in whose uniform he went to the front to serve as chaplain during the Great War. The Claerhouts succeed the Dautrys who for nearly twenty-five years were in charge of the *Bonne Nouvelle* and the beginning of their ministry gives promise of an equally useful and interesting service.

"IMPERFECT SYMPATHIES"

No American can speak with more understanding of the French people than the distinguished Ambassador who went through the early days of the war with them and is probably the best beloved by them of any man or woman born under the Stars and Stripes.

At a dinner given in Paris during the summer by the American Chamber of Commerce to nearly a hundred members of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Herrick said: "Remember that you are still in a great house of mourning. That house is France, a country that has lost between five and six millions of its best blood in the war. We must be big enough to remember France's part in that war. We come from a happy and prosperous country and it is difficult for us to understand a land in which prevail conditions different from those in the great stretch of territory between the Pacific and Atlantic. But the war should have made us philosophers, to the extent of putting ourselves in the place of our hosts. Only when we do this will we grasp fully the ideas of the French people."

On returning recently from an extended stay in Europe, Bishop Brent, whose Independence Day sermon in the Church of the Holy Trinity, in Paris, stirred the deepest emotions and rebuked the pride of every American in the vast audience, stated, in an interview with the President: "As to France, she deserves our sympathy and kindly thoughts."

As the McAll Association enters upon another winter's campaign on behalf of the Mission whose work it has supported for nearly half a century, what better slogan could there be than the statements of these two representative Americans? The next six months will be a testing time both for collectors and donors. The "gentle Elia" confessed to his "imperfect sympathies." In the century since he wrote, the great word between men and nations has become, "understanding." Lamb's temperamental "conceit" would be an intolerable philosophy today. Least of all has it any rights in the work of missions.

In view of the so called strained relations between the governments in Paris and in Washington and shoulders turned away on the part of many American men and women, it is

not going to be an easy winter to secure contributions for the work which is, nevertheless, so largely dependent on American support.

The first essential to success will be the creation of an atmosphere of sympathy. Such an atmosphere will not be developed by arguments on the merits of the claims of debtor or creditor. The Mission's appeal to us is utterly apart from considerations of politics or finance. Those who stand in need of our help know little, if anything, of the problems of statecraft.

It is our responsibility to see that, between those who would exact the pound of flesh and those who would forgive all, Christ's little ones are not allowed to perish for want of the knowledge of His love. That is the emphatic thing for us, officers and members of the Association's auxiliaries, to remember ourselves and to urge in our appeals.

With this let us keep ever in the forefront of our thoughts the Mission's faith in us. Because of the constancy and fidelity of our support, these many years, the Paris Committee has come to have a confidence in us which, especially since the war, has led to a large building programme and an extension of its work until, today, the most comprehensive plans and elaborate plants in its history are depending upon us for their very life. Should our fidelity fail, not only would the "bread of life" be cut off from a great multitude of famishing souls, but this splendid structure would crumble and Christ's Kingdom in France suffer a long set-back.

The accounts in the following pages must carry conviction to anyone who reads them of the disinterested efforts of the Mission's staff and of the potentiality and promise of its work. Old buildings have been repaired and enlarged; new buildings erected; new territory entered and the evangelical force greatly strengthened. The Mission's doors stand open day and night and entrance is never refused to anyone in need. Its hospitality knows neither class, nor age, nor sex. The hard-headed Parisian factory hand, the millworker and miner of the smoky North; the laborers in the harvest fields and vineyards of the South; the slave to his evil habits; the outcast and despairing; the sick in body as well as mind; the young men and

young women who stand at the dividing of the ways; the little children who will constitute the France of the future—toward all of these the Mission stretches out loving hands and offers the sympathy of loving hearts.

The problems of the Paris Committee are many and often perplexing, but their zeal is unwavering. In his last annual report, addressing his co-workers, Director Guex said, "My friends, that which God can accomplish through us depends in very large measure upon us. It is a question of our entire consecration, of our sanctification by His spirit. Let us consecrate ourselves anew and let it be our sole ambition to serve Him, for as the Mission was born of an act of faith and obedience, consummated in prayer, so it will continue to live only by the prayer of faith which is confirmed in obedience."

There is no man on earth in whom the miracle of regeneration works a more dramatic revolution than in the Frenchman. He becomes not only a new man, but a propagandist of his faith to the end of his life. Not long since a former prisoner came to one of the Paris halls to bear witness to what "his friend, Hirsch," who preached to the spirits in prison every week for forty years, had done for him. Uncovering his chest he proudly exposed the inscription, tattooed in large letters, *Gloire à Dieu* and added, "When I present myself before God, He will not say, 'Depart from me, I know thee not!' but, 'Thou art a poor sinner, but Jesus loves thee!'"

Despite the reputed indifference of the present generation, thousands on thousands have proved that men are not insensible to the action of God's spirit. The appeal to American hearts is not simply an appeal to something larger than prejudice, nor merely for the maintenance of a great organization that will go under but for our co-operation. It is an appeal supported by the promise of a great and fruitful future in which, perhaps, it will appear that the life of a people, whose roots run back to the very beginnings of Christianity, had been at stake.

ST. QUENTIN

The Dedication on May Thirtieth

Next to the quality of the personnel, nothing is more important in a work like that of the McAll Mission than the

adaptation of its buildings to the work's development. When the old city of St. Quentin began its resurrection from the war, the *Mission Populaire* began also the renewal of its work among the returning refugees. Mlle Prevost-Brouillet held her first services in a little building which was loaned to the Mission by the Presbyterial Council. This was shortly entirely inadequate to the work which was growing so fast under her hand. To give her a suitable home for the children and adults who came in ever-increasing numbers, the Paris Committee bought and altered the original little building, acquired the large, new building alongside of it and threw the two together, so that there are now rooms for evangelistic and preaching services, for prayer meetings, club rooms for the Men's Circle and for the Young Women's and Young Men's Christian Unions as well as a small garden in the rear. Not far away a large field has been acquired which has been converted into a playground.

The inauguration of the new plant was held on the 30th of May, M. Beigbeder presiding and representatives from the



ST. QUENTIN

IN THE NEW AUDITORIUM ON MAY 30TH

Paris and American Committees being present. One of the ladies from an eastern auxiliary writes of this occasion: "The new hall was crowded to capacity and we were given seats of honor on the platform. M. Beigbeder expressed his gratitude to the American friends present and through them to their representatives in America who had made the new building programme possible. Director Guex, after referring to Mlle Prevost-Brouillet as the good Samaritan who had come to St. Quentin to bring to the people Christ's good-will and love, likened the new building to the Inn in the parable. 'This,' he said, 'is a house where you can come for sympathy and counsel, but it is more than that. The worth of the inn depends on the inn-keeper who in this case is not Mlle Prevost-Brouillet, but the Saviour Himself. Many of you here today have already learned to know this Divine "Keeper." It is His ambition that all the people of St. Quentin should know this place. The realization of this ambition depends on you. This hostelry has been named the *Foyer Fraternel*, but it will deserve that name only on the day when you all become good Samaritans.'

"After an address by Pastor Lacheret, of the neighboring church, Mlle Prevost-Brouillet, who was greeted by prolonged and loving applause, said: 'We have come here today to render honor to the hero of this festival, Jesus Christ. We began with six children only. Now we have a hundred and fifty in our Sunday School. At the first Mothers' Meeting there were only four present, now the room is filled. The same is true in regard to the Men's Club and the Young Men's and Young Women's Associations. From the beginning we have carried on the work by prayer. It is by prayer that we have received the gift of this building.'

The dedication programme continued through the afternoon and evening and practically every member of the *Foyer* participated in the exercises. There were songs and choruses by the children, the Women's Union, the girls' and boys' groups and by the young men's Coligny Circle. Victor Hugo's poem, "The Poet and the Children," was read and the hour was late when the older girls gave their tableaux, "The Miracle of the Spindles."

THE NURSE EVANGELIST

MLLE GRASSMUCK

A nurse at the *Fraternité* at Nantes has a *métier* of many aspects. First of all there is the dispensary which functions every day. The number of treatments given there in the last six months was 859, most of the cases being the illnesses of



IN NEED OF A NURSE

children, not serious, but often stubborn. During the same period, treatments in the homes of the neighborhood numbered 325, most of these consisting of hypodermic injections, given to typhoid and tubercular patients, or those suffering from anaemia. A physician makes monthly visits to the *Fraternité* in order to keep a general oversight over the children. Special consultations have been held in the cases of twenty children suffering from laryngitis, ophthalmia, poor teeth, etc. There were five adenoid operations. In the early winter the eldest child of our concierge was attacked with scarlet fever and we isolated him on the third floor of the house. The youngest child, aged two, was attacked at the same time with an acute bronchial

pneumonia, but we were able to bring them both through, to the great joy of their parents whose courage during this trying period showed the reality and depth of their religious faith.

Our house to house visits, about a hundred a month, are not entirely due to illnesses; but whether people are sick or well, it is always our desire and purpose to carry the sympathy and consolation of the Gospel into the homes we enter. Sometimes there are prolonged cases of suffering, or of isolation, especially in the case of some poor drunkard's wife. We call on people, also, in order to find out about their material troubles which we are sometimes able to alleviate by applying to one of the city charity organizations. Two layettes were secured for two new babies and we always try to teach young mothers the principles of the care and feeding of their children.

Some of the people we have visited have actually accepted the Gospel. It is always a happy experience to watch children growing up in the Christian atmosphere created by their fathers and mothers. How different is the life in such families when the tongue of slander or scandal is silenced and all the questions of the daily life are seen from a higher level. Truly we understand the words of the apostle, that "Godliness holds the promise of the life which now is as well as of that which is to come."

In our women's prayer meetings we seek always to deepen the lives of those who come and in the meetings of the Y. P. S. C. E. we have devoted our time this year to the life of St. Paul. We wish we might find among our young girls a greater desire for intellectual and spiritual development. We can at least say that, for the most part, these girls are willing to be taught and that by their regular attendance and their care always to pay their dues on time they testify to a real attachment to their society. The meetings are held every Sunday. The enrollment numbers thirty and there are never less than twenty or twenty-five present.

A single word as to the cradle roll of our Thursday School. We have in this group twenty-five to thirty babies from three to six years old. They quickly learn to sing and memorize with amazing rapidity the hymns we teach them. They listen also with much attention for their age to the stories from

the Old Testament. Our kindergarten instruction and the sand tables are both means of keeping the interest of these very young students.

Such are some of the tasks which we always try to meet in dependence upon the spirit of Him who has called us to His service, praying always that He will so use our labors that many may be able to make their own the experience of the Apostle Peter when he said, "Lord to whom shall we go, Thou hast the words of eternal life!"



MADAME PERROT OF NEMOURS

VACATION COLONIES

PASTOR HENRI GUEX

If it is true, as the saying runs today, "Who is there who has not a car?" one might equally well ask, "What self-respecting mission work is without a vacation colony?" In any case, the *Mission Populaire* has its colonies which at the moment of writing are in full activity.

The vacation welfare organizations are of different types, each having its advantages and as a rule bearing the marks of the circumstances which gave rise to it. We would not claim that our particular colonies are superior to all others; each renders valuable service. There is, for example, *L'Oeuvre des Trois Semaines* which, during the time limit, "three weeks," cares for as many children as possible under the direction of a personnel which is recruited with some difficulty, but always with care.

Another method is that of placing children in farmers' families in the same general neighborhood where, of course,



THE COOREMANS AT "LES TILLEULS," THE NEW VACATION COLONY
AT "FRESNES-L'ARCHEVÊQUE"

oversight is difficult and fatiguing, though this is the most economical method and if the children are old enough they are supposed to give a part of their time to work in the fields.

Another type especially fitted to its clientele is represented by the colony organized by Pastor Nick, at Aubengue, near Boulogne. Here M. Nick receives not only the children who belong to the *Foyer* and *Le Rayon*, of Lille, but others confided to his care by the municipal authorities of the towns of the North. The assistants, however, are always Christian students and the training given is in consequence a Christian training.

The *Mission Populaire* has organized its colonies with a special view to the spiritual development of the children. In its different homes, with rare exceptions, there are grouped the children who come from some particular *salle* and who are under the direction of the evangelists and teachers who already know them and who will continue their training during the following winter after having lived with them for one or two months in an intimate family life. For, by this arrangement, the colonies become veritable big Christian "families" in which the teachers have special opportunities for the development of the moral and religious life of their charges.

Our homes in the country at present include *Fondettes*, near Tours; *Fresnes-l'Archevêque*, not far from Rouen; *La Bernerie*, near the mouth of the Loire, and *Gérardmer* in the Vosges mountains. In addition to these colonies there is the Orphan Home, at Châtillon-sur-Seine, which remains open all the year and retains twenty-five of its children during the winter. For several years, also, through the kindness of a generous friend, the children of the Marseilles stations have been given an outing in the department of the Gard, under the direction of one of the Mission's evangelists.

One might compare the work of the Mission's colonies to the transplanting of young plants from a poor soil, where they are shriveling up, into a soil favorable to their growth. The atmosphere in the midst of which our children live, the demoralizing contacts and examples of daily life at home, are the most serious obstacles to the influence we exert upon them.

Moreover, this influence is intermittent as the children come to us only for certain hours each week. To get them away from such pernicious surroundings into the pure atmosphere of a Christian family life and in God's beautiful sunlight, this is at once the aim and the result of our summer colonies.

As for "results," these are not, of course, uniform, but in our regular Sunday and Thursday Bible Schools it is always easy to distinguish by their obedience, their relations with their comrades, their interest in their lessons and the chasteness of their speech, those who have passed the summer in one of the big family colonies. A child comes to us, for example, for the first time, surfeited with his own egotism and assuming that everything is run for his particular benefit, as though he were at a hotel. Presently he begins to understand that everything he is receiving is given to him, including the love which is poured out toward him, and his egotism little by little disappears.

In particular, it is the parents and especially the mothers of the children who show appreciation of our work. "My child is entirely changed, his whole bearing is different, we cannot sufficiently thank you!" But at the same time they realize that what we have done is something that they themselves should have done. And what progress, to say the least, is registered in the character of our children! There are not a few who credit their new birth to the vacation colonies. There are others who would never have put their feet in the doorways of our Christian Union societies, but who have become exemplary members of these societies, owing to their summer teaching. Still others from indifferent, or even hostile families, have begun to attend the Sunday services asking to be given the religious instruction necessary for church membership.

From time to time, there are touching instances, like that of the little girl who demanded the right, to the astonishment of her family, to say grace at the table and that of the group in one of the colonies who, each night before turning out the lights and unknown to their teacher, held a little service of prayer and song in their dormitory.

THE PARIS AUXILIARY OF THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION

MISS JESSIE PATTERSON

A meeting of the Paris Auxiliary was held on Tuesday, June 29th, at the American Women's Club, 61 rue Boissière, at which the American Ambassador, the American Consul General, members of both the French and American Committees and many friends were present.

The Chairman, Miss Patterson, opened the meeting with a few words of welcome to the members of the two committees and of thanks to Mr. Herrick and to Mr. Skinner for kindly consenting to be present. She also expressed her regret at the enforced absence of Mrs. A. N. Connett, President of the Club and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Auxiliary. She reminded those present that the Committee was a small one and expressed the hope that it would grow. To defray the necessary expenses of the work of the Auxiliary and to contribute toward the funds of the Mission, it had been decided to ask all those desirous of becoming members to pay an annual subscription of Frs. 50.

The Rev. Henri Guex, Director of the *Mission Populaire Evangélique*, then gave a short account of the work. Referring to the speech made by the Ambassador, on the occasion of the inauguration of Mrs. Whitney's statue at St. Nazaire, he assured those present that it was unnecessary to defend American ideals in France, for had not every proof been given that the help extended to this country by Americans was devoid of all self-interest and solely inspired by a desire to manifest their ideal of Christian faith and charity? For forty-five years the McAll Mission had been largely supported by Americans. Before, during and after the war, thousands of boxes, containing clothes, cocoa, soap, etc., had been sent from the United States to help in this work of love.

Among the many organizations of the Mission, Monsieur Guex particularly mentioned the *Fraternité* at Nantes where Monsieur Chastand had been working for nearly twenty years. The little houses with gardens in the vicinity of the settlement were mostly occupied by reformed drunkards, men to whom the

Gospel message had restored dignity and self-respect. 'It was America's practical sympathy and idealism that made French people love and appreciate her as he hoped America loved France.

Mr. George T. Berry, before showing pictures dealing with the activities of the Mission, paid a tribute to the devoted work of Miss Elizabeth Rogers Beach, to whom the birth of the American McAll Association was due. Coming to Europe in 1878, she met Dr. and Mrs. McAll in the little building they had taken in the grounds of the exhibition held in Paris that year and, becoming enthusiastic over their plans for the working classes, devoted herself to helping in the Sunday Schools, teaching and assisting with the music. She returned to the United States and on telling her story to Dr. Leander T. Chamberlain, her pastor, he persuaded her to give conferences in various towns. This she did, never sparing herself, though much of an invalid and obliged to rest for a day or two in bed after any unusual effort. Dr. Hitchcock wrote an account of her noble service and spirit of self-sacrifice in a book entitled, "The Story of a Consecrated Life." Her missionary career was cut short in a shipwreck in which she perished while en route from Boston to Florida in quest of health!

Mr. Berry stated that there were now sixty auxiliaries in the United States working for the McAll Mission, all non-sectarian, as is the Paris Auxiliary. Pictures of many *Foyers* where the work is carried on were shown: Nantes, St. Quentin, Nemours, Lille, Roubaix, Rouen; of *La Bernerie*, *Les Vallées*, near Tours, *La Rayée* near Gérardmer in the Vosges, Vacation Colonies; of the Chapel Boats and the Orphan Home, at Châtillon-sur-Seine, and the *Foyer* at Kremlin-Bicêtre, where old people from the *asile* are invited every Saturday afternoon and given a few happy hours to carry them through the grey-ness of the rest of the week. A film portraying the activities of the Boy Scouts, a movement introduced into France by the Mission, was most graphic.

The Ambassador then gave a moving address in which he said there was really little to add to the touching accounts given by Monsieur Guex and Mr. Berry. He emphasized the fact that an ambassador's work in a foreign country was not only

that of smoothing over political difficulties, but also that of interpreting the ideals of his country and of explaining the heart and purpose of his compatriots to the people in whose country he exercised his functions. In the many years he had lived in France, he had always aimed to make America loved and understood. In this effort he had met with a great deal of help, especially from the American Women's Club, to the members of which he expressed his gratitude. The Old Testament doctrine was one of reward for good works, but the doctrine of Christ was that "he who findeth his life shall lose it." Two thousand years after these words had been uttered by the Great Teacher, we found them revived in the work of the McAll Mission. Surely, to give our support to this noble organization would be to testify, in the finest manner, to the sincerity of the ideals of our own country.

After the meeting, subscriptions to the amount of Frs. 3200 were contributed and a delightful hour was spent in the garden, where tea was served to the members and their friends.

LA SALLE DU FAUBOURG ST. ANTOINE

A Review

PASTOR ALBERT DRANCOURT

The Faubourg hall is the oldest in Paris, having passed its fiftieth birthday. We should have liked to celebrate this anniversary, but how could we do so in the sombre, old room which has been practically unchanged since the first evangelistic service held in it? It is too sad a place for fêtes.

On the other hand, what unmeasured good has it accomplished! It was in this same old hall that Mr. Greig and his devoted wife began their work on their arrival in France and where they continued to work until they were called to a higher service. The fidelity of these two servants of God was paralleled only by the ceaseless encouragements which accompanied their efforts up to the time of the war and well into that great struggle. The evangelistic meetings were always well attended and the popularity of the Sunday and Thursday Bible Schools never waned. Despite its ugliness, only lately relieved by electric lighting, the old hall has exercised an astonishing influence.

If one asks why, the first answer would be, that the people who were not affected by advanced political and social theories were drawn by the religious meetings. They found in them a way of satisfying their group sense. I think also that in the earlier days of the hall religious meetings were more pre-occupying. The clientele of the *cafés* was less numerous than today and the moving picture houses had no such following as since the end of the war.

In the second place, when times were hard, the Faubourg hall manifested a truly brotherly spirit, as for example about the year 1895, when many were out of work for months, there was a daily distribution of soup. More than four hundred idle men and women in this way were cared for. It was during this time that that memorable letter was sent to the concierge of the *salle*, with a two-franc piece enclosed: "Please accept this tiny expression of the gratitude of a cabinet-maker who now happily and by God's grace is able to earn again his daily bread. May God bless your work and the practical religion which you carry on in the name of Jesus Christ!"

During the Great War these soup suppers were started again at the Faubourg, for life at that time was exceedingly difficult. The change in material circumstances has somewhat reduced the spell of the old *salle*. The people's eyes seem to have opened to the unattractive appearance of the building now so old, so dark and so unsanitary. Not long since, I asked a little boy who was playing in the street, "Why didn't you come to the Bible School today?" He replied, "There is not any sun in that room. I do not like a place that has no other light than electricity."

This is one of the chief reasons why the children do not come to us today as in the past. Another reason is the competition of the secular and Catholic *patronages* which are much more attractively furnished than our hall. Furthermore, the Thursday moving-picture shows for public school children, either at greatly reduced prices or altogether free, take our boys and girls from us. Could we but bring our work up to date by establishing it in a suitable building, furnished with a moving picture machine with which to show high-class plays, the Faubourg work would flourish anew.

I believe this because the *Conférence*, as we say at the Faubourg, is known and loved. Never has there been any exhibition of hostility or animosity. Parents would willingly confide their children to us if, instead of having to shut them up in a dark and dusty hall, we could receive them in a bright room with a playground or garden outside, as at other stations of the Mission.

Yet, in spite of our great handicap, old friends and new alike keep coming to us. Last winter a pretty little girl of eight was brought to the Bible School by her grandmother. I had never seen this woman and I asked her why she had brought the child to us and who had told her of the hall. "No one," she said, "I have known for years of the meetings here, my daughter attended your school when she was a little girl also." Ever since, the grandmother and granddaughter have come faithfully to our meetings and sometimes the mother herself accompanies them.

One of the great sources of strength of the Faubourg work has been its intimate relation to the Bercy Church, whose members are chiefly converts won in the old *salle*. In Mr. Greig's time there used to be eighteen or twenty teachers and helpers from the young people of Bercy to aid in running the Sunday School of the Faubourg with its hundred children. There are still a hundred children who come to the Bible School and yet others enrolled in the *écoles de garde*, but we have only two or three assistants recruited from the regular *habitués* of the *salle*. This fact is due to the recent union of the Bercy Church with that of Sainte Marie.

Despite all the drawbacks of which I have spoken, the Faubourg work continues as in the past. Its programme is ever the same, namely, to make known the Saviour, to draw souls to Him and to work for the extension of the Kingdom of God. Today also, as yesterday, we have our successes to record.

The following are characteristic incidents: One day a woman was brought by a friend to the Mothers' Meeting. Her large eyes were filled with tears. It was evident that she had passed through some great sorrow. As the meeting continued and she listened to the singing, the chapter from the Bible and

the prayer, her interest continued to deepen. Mme Greig was in charge of the meeting: "Don't be worried," she said, "we all have our troubles, but we can always lay them at the Saviour's feet." When the newcomer left the hall her expression had entirely changed. She seemed less sad and less burdened. From that day she came habitually to the Mother's Meetings and is still coming today, a radiant, happy woman. On the day she first appeared, however, she has since declared, she had firmly resolved to throw herself into the Seine. Instead she passed from death to life.

One evening a man and a woman came into the hall, making a great deal of noise and creating disorder. It was evident they had been drinking too much. When the speaker who was presiding announced his text, the woman who formerly had attended the Sunday School and knew the verse recited it in a loud voice. Instead of reproaching her for her conduct, the evangelist congratulated her for her memory. Immediately they both became calm and at the next meeting returned, decently clad, and from that day till now have been coming regularly—one more instance of the power of the Gospel.

Very often invitations extended by our *habitués* to their neighbors bring us new faces. One day a woman sat on a bench in the Square Trouseau and near her was another elderly woman, busy making packages of labels. As they got to talking, the one making the labels said to the other: "Do you know *La Conférence*?" "No, what is that?" "Why, it is a hall where people assemble many times a week. On Tuesdays it is always a Mothers' Meeting. Won't you come with me next Tuesday, for you will see and hear only good things?" They gave each other the rendezvous and so another *habitué* was gained for the hall.

These Mothers' Meetings are one of our greatest sources of encouragement. The roll has reached 120 members and every woman that can get away from her work on Tuesday afternoons comes without fail. It is in these meetings that they forget their worries and sorrows and when they return home, it is to think of Him who went apart to rest awhile. "Without the Mothers' Meetings we simply could not live," said one of these women. "Since I began coming to the hall I am always

happy, for even when I am in trouble I say to Jesus, 'Help me to bear it!'"

Since the opening of the Faubourg *salle* half a century ago, how many souls have been lifted out of the abyss God only knows. How many have recovered their courage to live? This also is known only to Him. But I am certain that the number of these souls constitutes a great chain, many links of which are now in the sky and the others still upon the earth, a solid chain of which Jesus is the artificer.

During the past year one afternoon a man came into the hall who seemed to make a discovery of himself as he entered. It was as though he were welcoming himself and he began to pray. He lifted his eyes and looked all about him. Mlle Liotard noticed him and as she did so he turned to her and said, with much emotion: "Oh, this dear old hall. I was brought here as a child. Here I learned first to know Jesus and gave into his hands the direction of my life. He has never forsaken me!"

And this is something that can never be forgotten: the *Salle du Faubourg St. Antoine* has been an instrument of evangelization always blessed by God. The instrument is old, it would be such a blessing and such a joy could it be replaced; but such as it is, it is still doing good, much good.

A VISIT TO "VILLA BONNE HUMEUR" A CURE FOR "THE BLUES"

MRS. HELEN M. CRAIG

After a five-hour trip from Paris, in company with Mme Roustain and two American ladies, we reached the Orphan Home about 9.30 p.m. A plate of soup and we were quite ready to take to our beds and were distributed around in the guest room, Mme Roustain's room and the infirmary. Every bedroom door is marked with the name of some flower and sometimes a motto. On the door directly opposite mine, the decoration was evidently new; it was a crayon landscape of water with a sail and wooded mountains over which birds were flying. Underneath was the inscription, "In honor of the coming

of the American ladies and of our dear Mme Roustain." In our rooms we all found fresh flowers and felt the spirit of welcome everywhere.

As we came downstairs in the morning we heard joyful sounds proceeding from the dining room, where twenty-six girls and boys, from five to fifteen years old, were scraping bunches of new carrots and singing at the top of their lungs



CHÂTILLON-SUR-SEINE

FIVE O'CLOCK "BREAD" FOLLOWING THE DAILY HIKE

all sorts of French folk songs. Our appearance was the signal for silence and as we sat down to breakfast the youngsters disappeared, each to his own special duties about the house.

A little later we went on a tour of inspection and then from the terrace watched the children at their play below. At dinner the older girls waited on the tables, serving and helping the little ones. We had brought with us from the *vestiaire* at Pierre Levée a small box of odds and ends and it did one's heart good to watch the children's delight as the box was opened. There were stuffed animal toys, partly worn clothes, picture

books and a few new aprons and dresses. As each thing was lifted from the box outcries of joy came from one after another. How little it takes to please a child!

In the afternoon we all went for a walk in the picturesque old town and visited the church, the older part of which dates back to the tenth century. At the bottom of the park is a mysterious spring, the source of the Douix River which, nearby, flows into the Seine.

There was just time for a cup of tea and farewells at the Villa before taking the evening train for Paris. But we all carried away with us a picture of that happy band of children in their clean, wholesome surroundings, and a great longing to give to the Home the many little material things it needs and which would make it the model "Home" we would see it become.

THE CHILDREN OF PEACE

H. GARNIER

We have held monthly gatherings of our peace society whose number has perceptibly increased over that of last year. As our meetings replace the Thursday School, we try to maintain its educational and religious character. The lessons and songs are of a special, pacifist sort and the admissions are official. Not only the enrolled members, but all the children who come to the *Fraternité* on Thursdays get the benefit of our instruction. To state exact results is somewhat difficult, since the Band of Hope, the Thursday and Sunday Schools, the special meetings of the boys and those of the girls all have but one end in view, to teach the love of God through love for man. At the same time, there are certain definite results. All dues are paid regularly and in the children's bedrooms one often finds on the wall over the head of the bed the special card of membership. Furthermore, to have sixty-five active members and a total of about one hundred and forty attending our meetings, is not this an indication of a deep desire for peace, especially as the enrolled children with their parents' consent and approval take the oath of mutual support, of patience and of the abandonment of all rough and war-like plays!



THE EVENING OF THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW BUILDING AT NANTES. THE MEMORIAL TABLET TO MRS. WAYLAND, JUST UNVEILED, IS SEEN ON THE PLATFORM

THE FAMILY SPIRIT

DIRECTOR H. GUËX

Very seldom, alas, one finds *l'esprit de famille* in our churches. Happily it is found in our *fraternités* and is not the least compliment one can pay to them. They unite in one purpose and feeling working people of various groups, making of them a homogeneous family unit.

This was never borne in upon me more emphatically than during the week-end which closed the year's work at the *Fraternité* of Nantes. On the evening of July 10th, seated about tables beautifully decorated with flowers were 150 mem-



THE NANTES ORCHESTRA

It requires some patience to develop *l'esprit de corps* in our "orchestra." A good many boys would like to become musicians, but have not the perseverance to keep up their practice. Four of them, however, are always on hand and have made splendid progress. Our number has recently been increased by a dozen young recruits and although some of them will drop out, there are always enough remaining faithful to assure the success of our organization. Our *fêtes* are always enlivened by our music.

C. VARLOUD

bers of the *Fraternité*, the solid and serious nucleus of M. Chastand's friends. As the programme proceeded and in particular as M. Chastand spoke on the parable of the wedding feast, the sense of family fellowship was manifest on every face. With a rare gift of expression, an aged mechanic, metal worker, formerly mayor of the commune where the *Fraternité* stands, who had gone to the bottom through alcohol, but who now is a new man in every sense of the word, thanked the "noble sisters" of America for their love, their faith and their generosity which made the life of the *Fraternité* possible. There were present two American ladies who had crossed the ocean to visit again the *Mission Populaire*. On an easel on the platform had just been unveiled a memorial tablet to one of the Mission's best friends, Mrs. H. Lincoln Wayland, whose interest in the Nantes *Fraternité* had always been so deep and whose gifts had made possible its continuous building programme.

As the words from the happy old workman fell from his lips, there was a moment of deep emotion. Truly it is a family gospel which knows neither social barriers nor even national frontiers!

The next day at the new playground a kermess was held and, in addition to the *Fraternité* "family," many outsiders came to watch the amateur theatricals and the games and to listen to the orchestra—to pass the entire afternoon at this fête conducted by the older members of the young people's groups.

It is not too much to say that our *fraternités* contribute to safeguard, or, better, to resurrect, in a community where it was dead, the spirit of the Christian family.

NANTES—1926

EMMANUEL CHASTAND

During the year the *Fraternité* has been made more attractive as well as larger. Thanks to the generosity of our faithful friends we have been able to complete our new building which houses all our workers, gives us an enlarged restaurant and provides furnished rooms for young men.

The beautiful playground, of 1500 square metres, located

about ten minutes' walk from the *Fraternité* and in the very heart of an agglomeration of working-men's homes which have been built within the last three years, was dedicated last July in the presence of a large gathering.

The attractive, new restaurant, in charge of Mme Carrel and supplemented by a reading room, where coffee is served in the morning, in competition with the alcoholic places nearby, serves each day from a hundred to a hundred and thirty meals, notwithstanding the fact that no wine is sold. This branch of our work provides a moral atmosphere for the working men and women of the neighborhood and enables us, aside from our general temperance work, to exercise a direct influence over many. By its means we have gained new hearers at our religious meetings as well as new members for the Blue Cross.

The furnished rooms, which we have opened in order to protect the morals of our young men, help us also in reclaiming drunkards who can thus remain under our influence during the beginning of their abstinence. Three such live permanently with us and two of these seem to have gotten entirely rid of their awful desire. We have also little cots which we can put up here and there for those who have been beaten in the game of life and degraded by sin. The last few days, for example, the following have come to us for help: A former police inspector; a former public accountant; a young working man and a young woman without support who had already slept outdoors for several nights. We have been able to secure work for all of these and we are trying to put them back on the right road.

For several days I noticed in our hall a young man who looked very unhappy. I recognized him as a poor boy whom on several occasions I had begged to change his way of living. I went up to him and said: "Have you not yet had enough of your miserable life?" We went together into my office and he has made up his mind to change his ways. For the time being he is sleeping in one of the "cots" under the platform of the *Fraternité*. His appearance has already changed. He signed the pledge of the Blue Cross three months ago. His old pals, several of whom are ex-convicts, offered

him at the *café* a bottle of Vichy! A woman whose son he had led astray and who had forbidden him longer to associate with him said: "You dragged down my boy, now take him along with you to the *Fraternité*."

This space under the platform is very often used by some "beginner"—I call "beginners" those poor wrecks who knock at our door. Some weeks ago I led to a bed which had been put up there a man whom drink and misconduct had cost both his work and home and as we, stooping, made our way toward the little bed, I said to him: "My friend, remember this word, 'He who humbleth himself shall be exalted.' If you persevere in living here for some time that will show that you have decided to follow the upward path. It is necessary to enter here on all fours, but some day you will enter your room on your two feet and then you will have become a man again." Several, in fact, have already come out of this primitive asylum having regained their self-respect.

Alcohol, alas, with all that follows in its wake, is always a terrible instrument in the hands of Satan. In our restaurant I can count today, among those alone whom I know, not less than five men whom intemperance has separated from their families. If they keep on coming to the *Foyer*, we shall, with the help of God, try to reunite that which sin has sundered. In our big city, the *Fraternité* is unfortunately almost alone in fighting successfully and with perseverance the alcoholic scourge. "Water drinker" is becoming a synonym for "Protestant"! Here are two examples of this which I heard of the same afternoon: "When one refuses to take his glass, his comrades say to him, 'So you have become a Protestant!'" A woman asked one of our friends in the Blue Cross, a vegetable dealer, "Aren't you a Protestant?" "Why, madam?" "Because I never see you tipsy." "Well, if in order to be a Catholic it is necessary to be intoxicated, then I prefer to be a Protestant!" (His frankness cost our friend his customer, who doubtless gave her trade to an alcoholic but Catholic vendor).

Our reputation for reclaiming drunkards is spread abroad by the testimony of those who have been saved. Not infrequently some one comes a long distance in search of "the remedy!"

(To be continued)

COMITÉ DE SECOURS

Mrs. James C. Colgate, National Director
270 Park Avenue, New York City

ELIZABETH DEPOT

Mrs. David M. Miller, Secretary

Contributions of Clothing, Food, etc., Should Be Sent to
907 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, N. J.

Correspondence Should Be Addressed to
1037 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, N. J.

For the second time since the Elizabeth Depot was opened, a shipment was forwarded in September. This season it consisted of five cases, and, besides the usual articles of clothing, there was a considerable quantity of cocoa, condensed milk, five cartons filled with Christmas gifts and ten pounds of tea for the use of the Paris workers at the Friday afternoon social hour.

One of the cartons had a note pasted on it to the effect that "this box contains twenty-nine Christmas gifts which we hope may be distributed at some McAll Mission Station." The articles in three of the boxes were donated by a Junior Auxiliary and were marked for the Orphan Home at Châtillon.

The June shipment was a very valuable one, for six of the cases contained a large proportion of new garments—one being filled with layettes, the work of one Auxiliary and the seventh case held over five hundred pounds of candy. In order to comply with the customs regulations, this case had to be lined with tin, and we are deeply grateful to the donor, Mr. H. S. Gillespie, of Orange, N. J., not only for the candy, but also for taking so much trouble to have it properly packed.

With these many preparations for Christmas, the joy of the holiday season comes early and is often repeated to the members of the McAll *Comité de Secours*.

JULIA C. MILLER

HOME DEPARTMENT

Belvidere

The Belvidere Auxiliary, in the words of its president, "has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Judge William H. Morrow, which occurred at his home in Belvidere, on Wednesday, July 14th, last, in his eighty-second year. He was devoted to the cause of the McAll Mission and deeply interested in the education of his French orphan providing for the continuation of her support."

**Summer
Conferences**

During the past summer, Miss Elizabeth Congdon represented "McAll" at the Chambersburg, Silver Bay and Northfield conferences. She was most enthusiastically received and her reports were most encouraging. She said that the girls showed a great deal of interest and that she had had many requests to speak at colleges throughout the country this coming winter. At present, Miss Congdon is spending four months in France, doing co-operative work between the American women students in Paris and the *Mission Populaire*.

**1927 Annual
Meeting**

It is a great pleasure to announce that the Plainfield Auxiliary has invited the Association to be its guest at the Annual Meeting, in May. Later announcement will be made in regard to the date.

**The Presidents'
Conference**

The Presidents' Conference will be held, in the building of the New York Bible Society, 5 East 48th Street, on Friday, November 12th, the morning session beginning at 10.30 and the Conference closing at 4.

Legacies

During the summer, three legacies have been received from Miss Charlesanna Huston, of Germantown, from Miss Mary K. Stevens, late President of the Springfield Auxiliary, and from Mrs. Thomas B. Gresham of Baltimore, in the respective amounts of \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$1,000.

Lantern Talks

As a means of strengthening the faith of the Mission's old friends and arousing interest in those unfamiliar with its work, the Board suggests to Auxiliaries the educational value of the stereopticon. The Field

Secretary has brought home a new set of slides covering the various activities of the Mission and will be glad to show these in drawing-rooms, parish-houses or before Sunday Schools or Young People's Societies.

**The Christmas
Card**

Another attractive Christmas card has been prepared by the same well known artist who designed that of 1925. It represents a street scene in a little French village with a group of children in the foreground and is done in black and white on Japanese paper. The accompanying verse was written for the McAll Association by Theodosia Garrison.

The whole makes a card which will give pleasure both to sender and recipient and orders may be forwarded at once to the McAll Bureau, 1710 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.



M. AND MME CLAERHOUT ON BOARD "LA BONNE NOUVELLE"
(See note at the bottom of page three.)

RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION FROM AUXILIARIES AND CHURCHES

April 8—October 8, 1926—\$33,134.46

MASSACHUSETTS, \$5,650.00	
Boston Auxiliary	\$252 00
Northampton Auxiliary	36 00
Pittsfield Auxiliary	108 00
Salem	150 00
Springfield Auxiliary	54 00
Legacy, Miss Mary K. Stevens	5,000 00
Worcester Auxiliary	50 00

CONNECTICUT, \$1,239.00	
Bluebird Girl Reserves	\$36 00
Hartford Auxiliary	717 00
Hartford Junior Auxiliary	54 00
Meriden Auxiliary	35 00
New Haven Auxiliary	315 00
Norwich Auxiliary	46 00
Windsor	36 00

NEW YORK, \$6,881.01	
Albany Auxiliary	\$36 00
Brooklyn Auxiliary	663 00
Brooklyn	16 00
Brooklyn Junior Auxiliary	108 00
Buffalo Auxiliary	509 50
Buffalo Junior Auxiliary	300 00
Ithaca Circle	72 00
New York Auxiliary	3,504 51
New York Junior Auxiliary	600 00
New York Children's Auxiliary	50 00
Rochester Auxiliary	373 00
Scarsdale	36 00
Syracuse	276 00
Troy Auxiliary	266 00
Troy Junior Auxiliary	31 00
Utica	40 00

NEW JERSEY, \$3,185.00	
Elizabeth Auxiliary	\$400 00
Englewood	100 00
Haddonfield	36 00
Montclair Auxiliary	964 50
Newark Auxiliary	144 00
New Brunswick Auxiliary	10 00
Auxiliary of the Oranges	1,326 75
Plainfield Auxiliary	67 75
Princeton Circle	136 00

PENNSYLVANIA, \$13,254.53	
Athens	\$36 00
Chester Auxiliary	144 00
Dixmont	75 00
Eaton Auxiliary	72 00
Easton Junior Auxiliary	36 00
Kunkletown	1 00

PENNSYLVANIA—Continued	
Moylan	3 00
Philadelphia Auxiliary	1,714 86
Legacy, Miss Charlesanna	
Huston	10,521 67
Philadelphia	36 00
Philadelphia Junior Auxiliary	200 00
Pittsburgh Auxiliary	136 00
Sewickley Auxiliary	144 00
Warren	5 00
Wilkes-Barre Auxiliary	130 00

MARYLAND, \$1,272.50	
Baltimore Auxiliary	\$272 50
Legacy, Mrs. Thomas B. Gres-	
ham	1,000 00

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, \$575.00	
Washington Auxiliary	\$575 00

ILLINOIS, \$362.00	
Chicago	\$326 00
Hubbard Woods	36 00

MICHIGAN, \$101.00	
Detroit Auxiliary	\$36 00
Grand Rapids	65 00

MINNESOTA, \$311.38	
Minneapolis Auxiliary	\$245 28
St. Paul Auxiliary	66 10

OHIO, \$102.00	
Cincinnati	\$36 00
Cleveland	30 00
Dayton Auxiliary	36 00

RHODE ISLAND, \$75.00	
Providence Auxiliary	\$75 00

DELAWARE, \$36.00	
Wilmington Auxiliary	\$36 00

FLORIDA, \$36.00	
Mt. Dora	\$36 00

WISCONSIN, \$36.00	
Milwaukee Auxiliary	\$36 00

Per American Sunday School	
Union	10 25
Per Sale "Our Debt to France"	3 15
Northfield Seminary Delegation at Y. W. Conference at Northfield	4 64

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR REAL ESTATE

I do give and devise to the American McAll Association the following described property.

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR PERSONAL ESTATE

I do give, devise and bequeath to the American McAll Association the sum of _____ dollars.

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